Cases being contested by Punjab National Bank, Calcutta for securing legal fees for its lawyers

1683. PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Punjab National Bank, Dharmatolla Street Branch (Lenin Sarani), Calcutta has been contesting cases for securing legal fees for its lawyers from various clients and constituents;

(b) whether the Bank has misused public funds in carrying on with such legal battles;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) what further action is being proposed to be taken to resolve the same out of court and/or to withdraw such proceedings from the courts of law immediately?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) to (d) Punjab National Bank has reported that its Dharamtolla Street Branch has not instituted legal proceedings for the purpose of securing/paying fees to the bank's lawyers. The suits have been filed for recovery of bank's dues after proper consideration. The bank has further reported that it has been following the suits and has not received any proposal from the defaulting parties to resolve the matters out of the Court.

Financial Assistance rendered by Tourism Finance Corporation of India Ltd.

1684. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Tourism Finance Corporation of India Ltd. sponsored by IFCI have agreed in principle to consider financial assistance for new projects on a regular basis even though the project cost is below rupees one crore to generate more employment and provide amenities to the middle class and low-income group tourists;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what are the technical and other difficulties TFCI are facing in not extending financial assistance to small tourism projects; and

(c) what is the moratorium and repayment period, seed capital assistance and maximum lending assistance categorywise?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) and (b) Tourism Finance Corporation of India Ltd. (TFCI) has reported that it normally provides financial assistance for setting up of tourism projects, tourism related activities, facilities and services with capital cost of Rs. 1 Crore and above. However, certain projects which are important from the tourism point of view and for which assistance from state level institutions/banks is not available, may be considered by TFCI even though their capital cost is below Rs. 1 crore.

(c) TFCI has also reported that moratorium and repayment period in each case would depend upon period required for the completion of the project and stabilisation of operations etc.

Seed Capital Assistance is not provided by TFCI.

Setting up of Export Oriented Units outside export processing zones

1685. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 353 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 10th August, 1989 and state the names of the organisations with addresses outside export processing zones whose projects under the scheme of 100 per cent Export Oriented Units have been approved alongwith the names of the items to be